

THADY YOU GANDER

English Folk Dance **LS E-15**

Formation: Contra or longways sets of four couples

DANCE

Meas. (2 counts per meas.; i.e., 1-8 = 16 counts)

1- 8 The first boy leads his partner down the middle of the set, side by side, hands joined. They separate and cross at the foot, girl crossing in front of the boy, and come back up the outside of the opposite line, each finishing in the partner's place.

9-16 The first girl leads the line of boys across the set, down behind the girls' line and back to place.

17-24 The first boy leads the line of girls across the set, down behind the boys' line and back to place.

25-40 The first couple does an elbow reel to the foot of the set. Right elbow swing with partner once around; left elbow swing with the next below; back to the center with a right elbow swing with partner; on to the next below with a left elbow; right elbow swing with partner; left elbow with the next below; right with partner and fall into place on original side.

Repeat for each of the three remaining couples.

PROMPTS

Intro:First couple down center,

1- 4 - - - - , Cross, come up the outside;

5- 8 - - - - , The girl leads the boys around;

9-16 - - - - , - - - - , - - - - , The boy leads the girls around;

17-24 - - - - , - - - - , - - - - , First couple reel the set;

25-40 - - - - , - - - - , - - - - , - - - - ,

- - - - , - - - - , - - - - , - - - - , New head couple down center.

Note: Although the first action of the dance takes 16 counts and it is shown as Meas. 1-8 in the dance description, it is broken down for you above in phrases of Meas. 1-4 and 5-8, in order to help you give the commands at the right time. During the musical introduction, say “First couple down center,” then wait four counts and give the next command, wait four and give the next, then wait twelve before giving the next, etc. and you will find that the children will dance right on the musical phrase and your command will come just as they are ready to begin the next action. This dance is very precisely timed.

If done properly, the dancers will finish just as the music finishes. On the reel, remind the children that the girl reels with the boys, and the boy with the girls.